

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 W
----- 062223

P R 141133Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2386
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T TUNIS 2631

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, PFOR, TS, LY
SUBJ: TUNISIAN DESTROYER MAY BE SENT TO GULF OF GEBBES;
USS WOOD VISIT SWITCHED FROM SOUSSE TO BIZERTE

REF : CHUSLOT 251041Z MAR 76

1. TUNISIAN CNO ADMIRAL JEDIDI SUMMONED USLOT NAVY REP TO BIZERTE LATE APRIL 13. JEDIDI REQUESTED THAT VISIT OF DD USS WILLIAM M. WOOD TO SOUSSE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19 BE SHIFTED BACK TO BIZERTE. JUSTIFICATION IS THAT TUNISIAN DESTROYER PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS TECHNICAL PROBELM WITH ENGINES WHICH AMKE DIFFICULT VESSEL'S MANEUVERING IN SOUSSE HARBOR WITHOUT TUGS. JEDIDI WANTS USS WOOD TO SPEND FIVE DAYS IN PORT WITH THE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA PUTTING THE ENGINES IN SHAPE. SEPARATE CHUSLOT MESSAGE EXPLAINS TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.

2. ADMIRAL JEDIDI, WHO APPARENTLY SPENT SEVERAL HOURS APRIL 13 CLOSETED WITH DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER BENNOUR, TOLD USLOT NAVY REP THAT HE INTENDS, IF PRESENT GOT/LARG CONFRONTATION CONTINUES, TO TAKE THE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO THE GULF OF GABES AND USE THE SHIP'S RADAR AND COMMUNICATIONS, BOTH OF WHICH SYSTEMS ARE APPARENTLY OPERATIVE,
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AS EARLY WARNING AGAINST POSSIBLE LIBYAN AIR STRIKE. JEDIDI

APPARENTLY WISHES USS WOOD TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IN TRAINING EXERCISES AT SEA FOLLOWING FIVE DAYS' REPAIR WORK AT BIZERTE AND PRECEDING DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA FOR GULF OF GABES.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY ORIGINALLY RECOMMENDED BIZERTE NOT REPEAT NOT BE USED AS SITE FOR JOINING TRAINING EXERCISE ONLY IN ORDER TO AVOID TWO CONSECUTIVE U.S. SHIP VISITS TO THAT PORT. SINCE TUNISIANS NOW ASK FOR BIZERTE VISIT, EMBASSY HAS NO PROBLEM WITH COMPLYING UND IS PROCESSING PAPERWORK TO SWITCH VISIT FROM SOUSSE TO BIZERTE.

4. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH DAO AND CHUSLOT.
KING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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